

The Maine Farmer.

S. L. BOARDMAN, Editor.
Our Home, Our Country, and Our Brother Man.

Co-operation in Farming.

A friend of ours has a notion that farming can be carried on profitably by the system of co-operation, now being experimented with in some branches of industry, or by joint stock corporations; that it can be done on a larger scale, with more profit, and with as good degree of success as in any manufacturing or joint stock company whatever. We do not agree with him. His arguments sound pretty, and perhaps his figures if put upon paper would look well, but we believe if the plan were put to actual test, the practical results would be of a kind that would hardly sustain the reasoning. Men have figured out immense profits per acre from growing a certain crop by estimating the product from a square rod of ground upon which to base their reckoning, but grown to the extent supposed by them, and no such crops or profits were realized; so, many times, they have proved to be a demonstration by figures, that by keeping poultry on an extensive scale, a fortune could be realized in a very short time, but the history of all men who have embarked in the business of poultry keeping on a large plan, can be written in the one word, failure. The plan is a very pretty one for a man to have in his head, of a large farm, every inch under good culture, with remunerative crops growing upon it, plenty of help to work it, and the whole well managed by a skillful overseer, while all those who are owners of stock will perform their set tasks—but the only place where such a plan would look at all feasible, is in the head of some scheming—pardon us for saying it, visionary—man. And why?

The business of farming has always been found more remunerative when conducted upon a small scale, and carried on under the immediate eye of the owner, than when carried on to a very great extent and through agents or second, and often uninterested hands. The small farms of England, Ireland and France, generally ranging from five to fifteen acres, show a better balance sheet than the extensive estates of the larger landholders, notwithstanding the owners of the latter have great wealth from which to draw to aid in whatever they wish carried out. In our own country the farmer who owns from fifty to one hundred acres, manages it in person, lays out the work for his men, attends to the purchase of that which comes upon, and the sale of that which goes from his farm, will realize a profit more than five times as large as those five farmers who own two hundred and fifty to five hundred acres, and perform the work upon it by the co-operative system. Farmers, of all other business men need to be independent—and independence can only be had upon one's own farm, managing his own affairs, and by diligence and economy so regulating his business, as to obtain the greatest profit. A writer in one of the agricultural journals argues for co-operation in farming on the supposition that three neighbors can better perform their labor by changing work through the week, performing the necessary work upon each man's farm in turn than they were each to work separately. There is a social aspect to this plan, he also argues, of much value, for neighbor mingles with neighbor, eats at his house, and is often brought into the company of his wife and family; hence the social quality of a man's nature is cultivated, and in a farmer this needs more encouragement than in any other business. But this is not co-operation in the sense in which we have been using it. One neighbor is simply doing from the force of circumstance, what another neighbor of capital would do from choice—employing, in one way or another help to do his own work. They each manage their own affairs and plan and regulate their own work. Co-operation in farming, is farming by association, governed by one general plan intrusted to one person to execute; "changing works" in farming, is very far from being co-operation, and is besides the poorest way of carrying on a farm, and is one denounced by all good farmers. The farmer who cannot work upon his farm only by "changing work" with a neighbor, is never a good farmer, and he is one who never goes forward with his own work but waits until some one can help him—consequently he is always "behindhand," as the saying is. We believe in sociability among farmers, and believe it should be cultivated—but let it be done in the leisure days and evenings which come after well planned work has been well performed by the independent farmer, when it can be enjoyed to the fullest extent, and when more than half of its pleasure will not be counterbalanced by the hard work that must accompany it if attempted to be indulged in when "changing work."

A Model List.

We are gratified at the progressive spirit indicated by the list of prominent men who have been adopted by the managers of the Hancock Agricultural Society for their exhibition the coming fall. The premium list, it appears to us, is very liberal, and the prizes in the various departments have been offered with good judgment. Twenty dollars for the best thoroughbred bull of any breed, and the same for a cow, is indeed liberal; but it is fully met by prizes quite as large in other classes—for instance, fourteen dollars for the best cow, breeding and milking qualities considered, and fifty dollars for the best conducted experiment in raising wheat. Twenty-five dollars are offered for the best exhibition of seeds, corn, cereals, &c., by one owner; and twenty-five dollars for the best general display made by any farmer's club within the county. Discussions are to be held during the three evenings of the fair, and members of the Orland and Backport Farmers' Clubs are to be designated to open the debate each evening. We are advised managers of other county societies to obtain copies of this schedule of prizes and study it; they will gain from it much information to guide them in making up their own lists. Hon. Samuel Wason of Ellsworth is the efficient Secretary of the Society.

Management of Grape Vines.

Will you please inform me the best method for training grape vines the second year after setting out, and whether they ought to be cut or not?—H. R.

NORR. The management of grape vines the second year after having been set out is very simple. We will suppose the vine was set out at the close of the first year. Now as soon as the buds have made a growth of about two inches, rub off all but the two strongest, leaving these free arms. When they have grown enough confine them to the lowest wire or slit of the trellis. Allow them two inches to grow all they will, and at the end of the season if they are ripe and sound one-half of the clusters they have grown, cut them both off at that length, and then cut off lateral or side shoots. This should be performed after the vine is done growing for the season and before it is put down for the winter. No vine should bear until the third year from planting.—E.

Experiments in Potato Culture.

In the report of the Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture for the past year, appears in full the results of a very careful and thorough series of experiments on the culture of the potato, carried out in 1865 by Mr. Geo. Maw of England, undertaken with a view of determining the following points in the culture of the potato, upon which there has always been much diversity of opinion, and very few attempts to settle these conflicting opinions by actual experiments viz: The influence of the size of the set on the economic results of the crop—whether any increase, and to what extent, is obtained over and above the extra weight of the set, in the planting of large in lieu of small sets; the influence on the crop of the distance at which the sets are planted—or the results of close and wide planting of various sized potatoes; the comparative results from planting similar weights of large and of small potatoes per acre; the relative advantages of cut and whole sets; the influence of thick and thin planting, and of the size of the set, on the proportion borne between the weights of the sets and the weight of the crop, and the rate of increase under various conditions; and the relative productiveness of different varieties of potato. Had the experiments been made with American instead of foreign varieties, the results would have possessed greater value to our farmers, and from this fact the results arrived at regarding the last point above mentioned, is of little value to American readers. We regret that it is impossible to publish the valuable tables accompanying this report, but as serving to guide those of our farmers who desire to engage in a similar experiment, and for the benefit of all potato growers, we give the general summary of results as determined by Mr. Maw. They are worth studying by all who plant potatoes.

"Firstly. Every increase in the size of the set, from 1 oz up to 8 lbs in weight, produced an increase in the crop much greater than the additional weight of the set planted. The net profit over and above the extra weight of the sets in planting 4 oz. sets in lieu of 1 oz. sets, amounted on the whole series of experiments to between 3 and 4 times per acre; and the further profit on the increase of the size of the set from 4 oz. to 8 oz., averaged about 5 times as great; all the intermediate size partaking proportionately of the increase.

"Secondly. The advantages in favor of the large sets is more marked in the late than in the early variety. Thirdly. In the use of small sets of from 1 oz. to 2 oz. in weight, a large balance over and above the extra weight of the sets was obtained by planting from 6 to 8 inches apart in the rows than at wider intervals. Fourthly. Increasing the intervals at which the sets are planted, even of the largest size, in the rows to more than 12 inches, diminishes the crop, and the wider intervals induce no increase in the weight of the produce of the individual sets.

"Fifthly. It may be broadly stated that the weight of the crop is proportionate to the weight per acre of the sets, and that small sets will produce the same crop as an equal weight per acre of large sets. The plan of the sets in North Yarmouth, or the very small sets set to the weight of full-sized potatoes, does not get into the ground, except by planting them so close as to be prejudicial to the crop. The advantage, therefore, of large sets remains practically unimpaired.

Notes from Our Copy Drawer.

MR. LANG'S STOCK SALE. We have received a copy of the next catalogue by which he has sold. Mr. Lang announces his sale of stock, which is to take place at his stable in North Yarmouth, on Monday, May 11th at 1 o'clock P. M. It comprises the names and pedigrees of five stallions, fifteen mares (including two matched pairs of gentlemen's driving horses), two geldings, which are to be sold; besides a half interest in several valuable animals, and fifteen or twenty cows and heifers of grade Jersey and Ayrshire blood, also a few full blood Jersey calves. The sale is one of the most extensive of its kind ever announced in Maine, and we hope none of the stock will go out of the State. We presume catalogues can be had by addressing Mr. Lang as above.

MARY STURGEON. Our obligations are due to Mr. E. F. Shaw of Chatham, for some very nice maple syrup, in the manufacture of which "good spots, clean buckets, and good evaporators" are brought into requisition, and our obligations are they have much to do in the production of a choice article of this kind.

WEST WINTERBORN FARMER'S CLUB. This Club has recently been organized with the choice of George Clement as President, and D. Libby, Secretary. At a recent meeting the subject of stock raising was discussed, and the Club decided to purchase a full blood Durham bull for the improvement of the next stock of their locality. This is beginning in the right way, and if judiciously managed will result in much benefit to the members of the club, and farmers in the vicinity.

QUESTIONS ABOUT BEE HYVENS. The following inquiry is made by a correspondent. As we do not feel qualified to answer it, we pass the same over to some of our readers who have posted in the matter: "Will any kind of bees be used in the movable comb, movable frame hive, tell us what the matter is with one of these hives? A man in this vicinity has the right to make them, but he charges the purchaser four dollars for the hive and five dollars for the right to use it. Is this as it should be?"

A CONVENIENT ARTICLE. A friend has made us a useful little article, which every housekeeper will find convenient to have. It is a dish-rack and is used to place in the bottom of a sink upon which to place dishes after having been washed and before they are wiped. It is about a foot wide and eighteen inches long, and is made by fastening strips of wood an inch wide and half an inch thick to two bottom pieces. Any one can make it, and it will be found a handy article to have, keeping the dishes from the bottom of the sink, and avoiding the liability common where persons wash dishes, of repeated breaking of dishes.

DANGER FROM SHEEP. (Subscribers, please.) The death of the sheep mentioned may be considered by worm in the head, and it may not; but from your statement of the symptoms, dropping of the ears, shaking the head, &c., we judge it may be rightly attributed to this cause. This, as is well known, is the grub or larva of the gad fly of the sheep, produced from an egg deposited within the nostrils. Local applications are made with difficulty, although spirits of turpentine applied with a feather to the nasal passages is generally efficient in dislodging the worm. Prevention in this instance, is better than cure, and to accomplish this, smear tar on the nose of your sheep early in July, or pour tar down in your sheep's nostrils for the first time. The worm will come to fresh earth for the first exhibition will amount to something like five or six hundred dollars. Hon. Jas. W. Norvell of this city is President of the Society, and David Cargill, Esq., of East Winthrop, Secretary.

MECHANIC ARTS.

Get of a picture dealer or at a small ware store for one cent, a screw eye, so called, and run it into the end of a broom, and it will answer for the next new broom, and so on, and nothing can be more convenient. I have used it in my family for twenty years but do not apply this year for a patent; so go ahead girls and sweep away. —Augusta.

For the Maine Farmer.

Mice Gnawed Trees.

There being reason to believe that considerable injury has been sustained by nursery and orchard trees during the past winter, it may not be amiss to remind our readers that frequently a little attention, if given in season, will have valuable results which would perish without it.

When the change of season is so near, and the gnawing has left only a very little bark, so applied by hand is not wholly sufficient. If the tree is fairly girdled for some inches, more than this is needed, and the gnawing should be inserted as soon as the bark will peel, the upper end, and stop, being inserted under the bark above the injured portion, and the same similar operation should be continued until the place by ligatures and waxed to prevent access of air. These generally serve to support circulation until granulations cover the denuded portion with new bark. The number to be inserted depends on the size of the tree, say from one to ten.

I once saw several pear trees which had been gnawed by mice to the top of the trunk, and the wood was as soft as the bark of a tree of the same size. The wood was as soft as the bark of a tree of the same size. The wood was as soft as the bark of a tree of the same size.

GOODALE PEAR.

The Goodale Pear.

We are glad to learn that this pear which attracted so much attention at the exhibition of the State Society at Portland last year, is also at previous exhibitions of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, is to be disseminated this spring. (See advertising columns.)

We learn that this fruit was originated by the father of the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture about 1845. Being particularly fond of the McIntosh pear, which originated about a mile from where he lived, he repeatedly sowed its seeds and planted them in his nursery by themselves. From one of the trees thus grown, which he gave to a friend with the condition that it should be allowed to bear fruit before being grafted, came the pear which bears his name. The original tree received only common farmer's treatment, and though naturally of quite an upright habit, has come to be broader than its height which is upwards of twenty feet, which is due to the large and uniform burden of fruit which it has borne.

In his circular which is before us, Mr. Goodale says of it:—

"The original tree is a seedling from the McIntosh. It is now from twenty to twenty-five years old. For fifteen years or more, it has not failed in any year to bear a good crop of uniformly fair fruit, of good size and excellent quality. This can be said of no other of the numerous sorts grown in the vicinity, and which culture is popular, and nearly all of the newer varieties, several hundred in number.

In symmetry of form and vigor of growth, both in the nursery and in the orchard, it has no superior, and its stock trees are more numerous than any other of the pear family. The original tree has never suffered from the severity of any winter, nor from blight, nor any disease.

"Season is long, commencing ten days or a fortnight after Bartlett is past, and lasting until Deane or d'Arjon is in its prime. Its only fault, so far as is known, (if it be a fault,) is that it requires to be gathered seasonably, while yet adhering well to the tree—the proper time here being 25th September in average seasons.

The fruit has been shown at the exhibitions of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society each year for five years past; has received the prize medal of that society, and high commendations from the best Pomologists in the country.

President Hyde, of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, writing as chairman of the Fruit Committee, says:—"We think it, on the whole, one of the most promising of the new pears brought to our notice."

It is commended especially for its rare combination of good qualities, viz: rich and delicate quality, good size, and handsome appearance of fruit; vigor, hardiness, early, great and uniform productiveness, and high commendations from the best Pomologists in the country.

Mr. Goodale informs us that he intends grafting most of his bearing trees of commonly approved kinds with this sort, because of its greater productiveness; and also that he does not recommend its culture on the quince stock, for though some trees on the quince grow very well, yet it bears so early when grown on the pear root as to render dwarfing quite needless.

For the Maine Farmer.

House Decorations.—No. 2.

At the close of my first article under the above caption, I promised to offer some hints upon whitening and paper-hanging. Before proceeding to those subjects, I wish to present some suggestions on outside painting of dwelling houses.

Much has been said and written by a certain class of social economists tending to disparage the usual style of painting our dwellings upon the theory where he lived, he repeatedly sowed its seeds and planted them in his nursery by themselves. From one of the trees thus grown, which he gave to a friend with the condition that it should be allowed to bear fruit before being grafted, came the pear which bears his name. The original tree received only common farmer's treatment, and though naturally of quite an upright habit, has come to be broader than its height which is upwards of twenty feet, which is due to the large and uniform burden of fruit which it has borne.

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Spring is Here.

Procrastinators who were dilatory in the autumn may regret their tardiness, as a very busy season, by long time by the forelock, now that spring is here. Look at those energetic men who never fail to have five crops of corn; they are early on the alert, taking advantage of each favorable day, and do not wait until every possible for planting, as they know how much depends on obtaining a good growth before the moisture is dried up by the greater heat of the sun later in the season, and having by continual cultivation between the rows worked the soil into a mellow condition, the fine mould on the surface keeps out the drought, and the roots having gained such start, run freely about in search of everything calculated to give vigor to the ears which are yet in embryo.

The grain, the grass seed, and the potatoes, derive corresponding benefit from being put into the ground in good season, which can only be accomplished by judiciously making the most of not only the workers, but the days and the weather, has given and every implement needed, is hurrying on at an commendable speed, but for want of more hands will be allowing good teams of men to do the work of a few, and the result will be a loss of a fine spring day with lots of work wanting to be done, it is as bad to have horses or oxen lying in the stable or yard, as for the men to be in bed or idling the village stores, and it is actually worse, for the oxen have probably been eating half the preceding winter without earning a cent, which adds to the loss of a fine spring day with lots of work wanting to be done, it is as bad to have horses or oxen lying in the stable or yard, as for the men to be in bed or idling the village stores, and it is actually worse, for the oxen have probably been eating 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Foreign News.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

Despatches via Atlantic Telegraph.

London, April 17. The debate in the House of Commons on the Irish Church bill was resumed last evening. Mr. Dilke moved to amend the following clause from the bill: "On and after the first day of January, 1871, the said union, created by an act of Parliament, between the Church of England and Ireland hereinafter referred to as the 'said Church' shall cease to be established by law."

Mr. Dilke supported his proposition in a speech of considerable length, contending that the clause destroyed the unity of the Crown, and placed the Church at a disadvantage.

Mr. Gladstone made a speech against the amendment. He contended that the clause was a mere technicality, and that the union of the Church was a fact, and that the amendment would be a mere change of name.

The House decided on Mr. Dilke's motion as follows: For, 221; against, 244; government majority, 123. The result was received with tremendous cheers by the liberalists.

MADRID, April 17. A directory is said to have been prepared, the members of which are Serrano, Prim, and Sagasta.

Lisbon, April 17. A military rising is feared in Oporto, and the strictest precautions are being taken by the government.

The building of docks for service in the waters of Cuba is going on with great expedition, and it is expected they will be completed and ready to sail before the end of June.

It is reported that Prince Frederick Charles, of Prussia, and the Duke of Luxembourg will be put forward as candidates for the throne of Spain.

PARIS, April 17. The Corps Legislatif was today a scene of wild excitement.

M. Thiers in a speech denounced what he called the commercial policy of France, as the political policy of the people of France.

M. Thiers, who had been in the Chamber of Deputies for many years, and who had been a member of the government of France, was today a scene of wild excitement.

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GEN. McCLELLAN. FROM THE EDITOR OF THE MANEFA RMER.

The following is a copy of a letter from General McClellan to the Editor of the Manefermer, dated April 17, 1871.

Dear Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst., and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

I am, Sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant, G. B. McClellan.

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